

April 10, 1947

Celebrating the 26th Anniversary of WBT

and

Dedicating WBT-FM, *Charlotte*

Statement by J. Strom Thurmond, governor of South Carolina.

On this occasion, when WBT celebrates its 26th anniversary, it is, perhaps, of equal importance that the station is increasing the scope of its service by dedicating its frequency modulation station, thereby providing radio facilities that will increase its usefulness and enhance its benefits to millions of people in the South.

As governor of ^{*the State of*} South Carolina, I am delighted to express my congratulations to the station and to its listeners. Because of Charlotte's extremely fortunate location, near the border-line between the Carolinas, it has been looked upon with equal pride by residents of both states. The fact that WBT was the Pioneer radio station in the South, did much to focus attention upon Charlotte and upon citizens of both states.

The emphasis today is upon the completely new radio station to be known as WBT-FM which will bring to its listeners a well-rounded series of programs in the public interest. Frequency Modulation is simply a technical term to describe a superior method of radio transmission. I am told that it presents a better, clearer reception and emphasizes freedom from an increasing amount of man-made noise. In addition, it presents a faithfulness of tone quality

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which has been the aim of broadcasters since the start of radio.

And what is particularly important is the fact that Frequency Modulation has a capability to serve every corner of our nation with additional stations.

WBT-FM is operating from the summit of Spencer mountain. The programs which come to you today, on this dedication event, embody a pledge of continued and improved radio service for tomorrow and for the future.

There is nothing experimental about FM radio broadcasting. It has been proved and it is now in mass production. ~~(Just as the public is entitled to the best from FM, it is entitled to broadcasting serving the public interest from WBT-FM.)~~ The history of WBT, and the public causes for which it has worked over these 26 years, assure you that you will hear Frequency Modulation at its best.

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Again, I congratulate WBT on its 26th anniversary and I wish for WBT-~~FM~~ FM the best of luck and a long period of useful service to the Carolinians and the Southland.

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